

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 AF-04 IO-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00

SP-02 L-01 SAM-01 INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PRS-01 PM-03 USIE-00 SSO-00 /055 W

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O R 301551Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5537

AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 RABAT 2572

LIMDIS

MADRID FOR PRESIDENT'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SS SP

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA: MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT FROM ISTIQLAL PARTY

1. SUMMARY: SECRETARY-GENERAL BOUCETTA OF LEADING OPPOSITION ISTIQLAL PARTY CALLED ON ME URGENTLY MAY 30 TO PRESENT MESSAGE FOR PRESIDENT IN CONNECTION WITH MADRID VISIT. ISTIQLAL MESSAGE REQUESTS PRESIDENT'S GOOD OFFICES WITH SPAIN TO HELP MOROCCO RECOVER SAHARA. MESSAGE, WHICH MODERATE IN TONE, ALSO OUTLINED MOROCCO'S HISTORICAL CLAIM TO SAHARA AND STRESSED MOROCCO'S FIRM DETERMINATION TO REGAIN THE TERRITORY. BOUCETTA EXPRESSED ORALLY FEAR THAT ALGERIA TRYING TO SET UP PRO-ALGERIAN REGIME FOR INDEPENDENT SAHARA. I COUNSELLED MODERATION AND FURTHER
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PURSUIT OF CONTACTS WITH SPAIN IN WAKE OF SPANISH ANNOUNCEMENT

ON ACCELERATED DECOLONIZATION. A SECOND OPPOSITION PARTY LEADER HAS ALSO ASKED TO SEE ME URGENTLY, PRESUMABLY TO MAKE SIMILAR DEMARCHE. END SUMMARY.

2. SECRETARY-GENERAL M'HAMED BOUCETTA OF ISTIQLAL, LEADING MOROCCAN OPPOSITION PARTY, CALLED ON ME URGENTLY AT HIS REQUEST ON MAY 30 TO PRESENT LETTER TO PRESIDENT (TEXT PARA 5 BELOW). ON OCCASION OF PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO MADRID, HE STATED, ISTIQLAL FELT IT WAS ITS DUTY TO ADDRESS MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT, LEADER OF A GREAT AND FRIENDLY COUNTRY, TO REQUEST HIM TO USE HIS GOOD OFFICES WITH SPAIN CONCERNING MOROCCAN RECOVERY OF SAHARAN PROVINCES. SUCH AN EFFORT, IN HIS VIEW, COULD HELP AVERT DANGEROUS CONFRONTATION BETWEEN TWO FRIENDS OF U.S.

3. BOUCETTA ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT ALGERIA WAS MOVING TOWARD RECOGNITION OF F POLISARIO (PEOPLE'S FRONT FOR LIBERATION OF SAKIET AL-HAMRA AND RIO DE ORO: PRO-INDEPENDENCE AND ALLEGEDLY ALGERIAN-BACKED) AS A SORT OF PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT FOR FUTURE INDEPENDENT SAHARAN STATE. BOUCETTA EXPECTED AN ALGERIAN DECLARATION, PERHAPS OPENLY SUPPORTING F POLISARIO, AT ANY MOMENT. F. POLISARIO, HE SAID, WAS A MAOIST ORGANIZATION EVEN MORE RADICAL THAN ALGERIANS THEMSELVES.

4. IN FURTHER DISCUSSION OF NEW SITUATION IN WAKE OF SPANISH ANNOUNCEMENT ON ACCELERATED DECOLONIZATION OF SAHARA, I NOTED THAT THIS SPANISH POLICY WAS AT LEAST STEP TOWARD SPANISH DEPARTURE FOR WHICH MOROCCO HAD BEEN PRESSING. IT IMPORTANT NOW, I STRESSED, THAT BOTH SIDES KEEP COOL HEADS IN ORDER TO ALLOW ORDERLY PROCESS OF ICJ ADVISORY OPINION AND UN CONSIDERATION TO WORK ITSELF OUT. HOPEFULLY, PROCESS WOULD RESULT IN IRONING OUT OF DIFFERENCES. I EXPRESSED OPINION THAT MANY SPANIARDS ALSO INTERESTED IN SUCH PROCESS, AND UNDERLINED DESIRABILITY OF CONTINUED MOROCCAN-SPANISH CONTACTS OF KIND IN WHICH BOUCETTA HAD ALREADY BEEN INVOLVED.

5. EMBASSY'S TRANSLATION OF ISTIQLAL LETTER FOLLOWS:

A. BEGIN TEXT. MAY 30, 1975. DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: IN MY PERSONAL NAME AND THAT OF THE ISTIQLAL PARTY OF MOROCCO, ALLOW ME TO TAKE THE OCCASION OF YOUR VISIT TO THE CAPITAL OF SPAIN
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TO CALL YOUR HIGH ATTENTION TO THE ALARMING AND DANGEROUS SITUATION WHICH RISKS AT ANY MOMENT TURNING INTO A DISASTER THROUGH THE LOSS OF HUMAN LIVES AND DESTRUCTION OF NUMEROUS HOMES OF A PEACEFUL POPULATION.

B. THE MOROCCAN PROVINCES OF SAKIET EL HAMRA AND RIO DE ORO -- KNOWN AS THE WESTERN SAHARA -- HAVE BEEN OCCUPIED BY SPAIN FOR SEVERAL DOZEN YEARS. FOLLOWING RECOVERY OF

ITS INDEPENDENCE, MOROCCO HAS SOUGHT TO RECOVER THESE PROVINCES BY PEACEFUL MEANS OF NEGOTIATION WHILE AVOIDING ANY BLOODSHED. SPAIN, WHICH EVACUATED THE PROVINCE OF TARFAYA IN 1958 AND THE PROVINCE OF IFNI IN 1969, WHICH REVERTED TO MOROCCO, CONTINUES TO REFUSE TODAY TO ADOPT THE SAME SOLUTION FOR THE TERRITORIES IT IS OCCUPYING AND WHICH ARE IN NO WAY DIFFERENT FROM THESE PRECEDENTS, EITHER WITH RESPECT TO HISTORIC, GEOGRAPHIC, POLITICAL, LINGUISTIC OR TRIBAL TIES WITH MOROCCO OR AN EFFECTIVE EXERCISE OF MOROCCAN SOVEREIGNTY SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL OVER THESE TERRITORIES. FURTHERMORE SPAIN IS CREATING THERE THROUGH ITS ATTITUDE A CHAOTIC, HIGHLY GRAVE SITUATION, AT A TIME WHEN UN ORGANS ARE SEIZED WITH THE QUESTION FOR A JUST AND NORMAL APPLICATION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER AND THE CHARTER ON DECOLONIZATION WHICH STIPULATE THAT ANY BLOW TO THE TERRITORIAL UNITY AND INTEGRITY OF A STATE IS CONTRARY TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 RABAT 2572

LIMDIS

MADRID FOR PRESIDENT'S PARTY

C. IT IS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF DEFENSE OF THESE PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS OF WHICH YOUR GREAT COUNTRY WAS THE INITIATOR AND DEFENDER AND IN CONSIDERATION OF THE WORLDWIDE RESPONSIBILITY WHICH YOU ASSUME AS PRESIDENT OF A GREAT NATION AND REPRESENTATIVE OF A GREAT PEOPLE ATTACHED TO THE PRINCIPLES OF LIBERTY AND JUSTICE THAT I ALLOW MYSELF TO ADDRESS YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.

D. SPAIN AS WELL AS MOROCCO MAINTAINS TIES OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. YOUR VOICE WILL BE HEARD WITH GREAT ATTENTION AND CONSIDERATION. THE RIGHTS OF MOROCCO ARE CLEAR AND ITS CLAIM TO RECOVER ITS TERRITORIES IS JUST AND IN CONFORMITY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED
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NATIONS, INTERNATIONAL MORALITY AND THE RIGHTS OF MAN. COLONIALISM IS CONDEMNED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND ITS TIME IS GONE FOREVER.

E. THE UNANIMOUS MOROCCAN PEOPLE HAS THE FIRM WILL TO RECOVER ITS COLONIZED TERRITORIES WHATEVER THE SACRIFICES WHICH THIS WILL COST IT; IT IS ALSO DESIROUS OF REINFORCING AND DEVELOPING TIES AND FRIENDSHIP WITH THE SPANISH PEOPLE. IT IS THEREFORE IN THIS MANNER, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT WE HOPE TO SEE THIS PROBLEM RESOLVED, WHICH, BECAUSE OF SPAIN'S OBSTINACY AND IN THE CLIMATE OF EXTREME TENSION AND CONFUSION SPAIN HAS CREATED IN THE REGION, THREATENS TO BECOME THE CAUSE OF A MURDEROUS CONFLICT IN WHICH THOUSANDS OF INNOCENT HUMAN BEINGS WOULD BE VICTIMS AND TO PLACE IN DANGER INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY.

F. PLEASE BE ASSURED, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT THE MOROCCAN PEOPLE WILL GREATLY APPRECIATE THE SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, FRIEND OF MOROCCO AND SPAIN, ON THE OCCASION OF YOUR VISIT TO SPAIN, SUPPORT OF A JUST CAUSE SO THAT RIGHT AND JUSTICE TRIUMPH AND AN OPPRESSED POPULATION MAY FIND A NORMAL LIFE BY RETURNING TO ITS HOMELAND, MOROCCO. PLEASE ACCEPT, MR. PRESIDENT, THE EXPRESSION OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. (SIGNED) M'HAMED BOUCETTA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ISTIQLAL PARTY, RABAT.

6. COMMENT: ISTIQLAL MESSAGE IS MODERATE IN TONE AND REFLECTS FRIENDLY ATTITUDE PARTY HAS MAINTAINED TOWARD U.S. OVER THE YEARS. BOUCETTA'S DEMARCH UNDOUBTEDLY MADE WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE AND PERHAPS PROMPTING BY KING.

ANOTHER OPPOSITION LEADER, USFP'S BOUABID, ALSO SEEING
ME AT HIS URGENT REQUEST LATER TODAY, NO DOUBT TO MAKE
SIMILAR PRESENTATION.

7. SIGNED ORIGINAL OF BOUCETTA'S LETTER WILL BE POUCHED TO
DEPARTMENT (NEA/AFN).
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